

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1382 without my signature, as it provides an opportunity for increased fraud and abuse without guaranteeing increased participation in the program as intended by the legislation.

While I support efforts to increase participation in the food stamp program, including offering food stamps to families leaving welfare to work and improving outreach and simplifying the application process, I cannot support this bill. The Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) prevents fraud by discouraging applicants from illegally obtaining duplicate benefits. Our first responsibility to taxpayers is to take necessary steps to prevent fraud and abuse in public programs, which is why I cannot support this bill's elimination of the SFIS.

For these reasons, I am returning AB 1382 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger